take part in that discussion and ensure protection of our country's security from the imperialist espionage agencies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will consider your suggestion. Now we will take up the Calling Attention. Yes, Mr.Advani.We will sit till 1O'Clock and then we will adjourn to meet at 2.30 p m. (*Interruptions*) I just wanted it should be started. We will take up Private Members buisness at 2.30 and after 5 O'Clock we will take up the calling Attention again.

SHRI LAL K.ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh) : Usually we sit till 1.30 because the Private Members Buisness starts at 2.30.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Certain Members would like to go to the mosque.

CALLING ATTENTION TO ALL MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Continued Strike by Teachers of Delhi University

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Human Resource Development to the situation arising out of the continued strike by the teachers of Delhi University and the action taken by Government in the matter

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Sir, I rise to make a statement on the situation created by the continuing strike of the Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA). The government is deeply concerned over the loss of studies sustained by the students of the University. I made a statement on this subject in the Lok Sabha on 18-12-1985. In that statement I had explained the background of the strike. the demands of the DUTA, and the steps taken by the government to meet the demands. The Minister of Human Resource Development, had, during his intervention, made it very clear that the government would stand by all the commitments made in 1983.

Let me state briefly the main points and explain the situatuion as it exists today.

The Delhi University and college teachers went on indefinite strike from 10th December, 1985, to press their demands. The main demands were (1) withdrawal of UGC's instructions regarding the termination of the Merit Promotion Scheme; (2) improvement of housing facilities; (3) sanction of stagnation removal increment for selection grade lecturers in colleges ; and (4) institution of Professor's grade in colleges.

It has been alleged by DUTA that the Government and the UGC have gone back on the comitments made by them in 1983. In reply to this allegation, let me state clearly that at that time UGC had agreed to:

(a) Merit Promotion Scheme,

(b) Improvement of housing facilities for Delhi University and college teachers.

Both these commitments have been fulfilled. The UGC has informed the Delhi University and to Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) that the Merit Promotion Scheme will continue. As far as demand for improvement of housing facilities is concerned, the scheme for construction of staff quarters for university employees at a cost of Rs. 3 0 crore was sanctioned, and the construction is in progress. The scheme for construction of staff quarters for college employees at a cost of Rs. 6 crores has been sanctioned.

Going beyond this commitment, the government had on its own initiated Rs. 20 crores Provident Fund-based housing scheme for teachers and other employees. The UGC has approved this scheme in principle

It has also decided that the Delhi University will utilise Rs 4 crores from the Provident fund during the 7th Plan period.

As far as the two other demand are concerned, the Vice Chancellor, Delhi University, had informed DUTA on January 28, 1983, that the matters relating to removal of stagnation of selection grade teachers and institution of Professor's grade in colleges will be placed before the appropriate authorities of the Univeristy at the earlist and the recommendation will be taken up with the UGC for implementation. There was thus no commitment either on the part of the UGC or Government in the matter. We have also consulted the officials who were involved in negotations at that time on behalf of the government and UGC and have been informed that there was no commitment.

We have made genuine and sincere efforts to resolve the differences. My officials and I held a series of meetings with the representatives of DUTA in the second week of December, 1985. An informal understanding was reached with the representatives of DUTA. The DUTA, however, decided to continue the strike.

Again, in January, 1986, the representatives of DUTA had another round of discussions with the Chairman, UGC. The University Grants Commission in response to an understanding that the strike will be withdrawn, and going beyond the commitments made in 1983, deicided to work out the modalities and give relief to the teachers stagnating in the selection grade. The decision of the UGC was communicated to the Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University, who conveyed it to DUTA. In spite of this, the DUTA did not withdraw the strike.

In the second week of February, 1986, DUTA approached the Lt. Governor of Delhi to press the demand regarding the introduction of Professor's grade in colleges. During the round of discussions that he had with the representatives of DUTA, the Lt.Governor suggested a formulation. This was, however, not acceptable to the representatives of DUTA. They prepared an alternative formulation which, in effect, incorporated their full demand. The Lt. Governor told the representatives of DUTA that their formulation was not likely to find favour with the UGC and they should reconsider and accept his advice. In spite of this categorical statement by the Lt. Governor, DUTA leaders presented their own formulation in the meeting of the General Body as a formula suggested by the Lt. Governor. UGC has since clarified that this formula is not acceptable to it.

The question of introduction of Professor's grade in colleges has been referred by the UGC to the R.C. Mehrotra Commitee which is looking into the pay scales of teachers in University and colleges and their avenues of promotion. The issue has all India repercussions. It has, therefore, been clarified that it is neither desirable nor feasible to take any decision on this subject just now.

It will be clear that the UGC and the government have accommodated DUTA to the utmost extent possible. DUTA, however, have not appreciated the efforts to reach an amicable settlement.

In the meantime, the fate of students of the Delhi University has been hanging in balance. There is an apprehension that unless the teaching work is resumed within a few days, students may lose one year. This would result in grave harm. In these circumstances, it was necessary for the UGC to take measures.

The UGC, by way of clarification sought by some institutions, reiterated

in a letter dated 29-1-86 addressed to the management of the Delhi colleges on the recommendations of the Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities, it had been decided in 1986 the principle of "No work, No pay" should be applicable to both teachers and non-teaching employees of the Central Universities. It was further pointed out that this decision was communicated to the Registrars of all the Central Universities in February 1986. Drawing attention to this decision, the letter states that any payment in contravention of the principle "No Work, No Pay" would be considered unauthorised expenditure.

The Minister of Human Resource development convened a meeting of the Chairmen of the Governing Bodies of Colleges in Delhi. At this meeting, the Lt. Governor of Delhi and the Chief Executive Councillor were also present. There was a general feeling that there is no justification for the strike to continue and that steps should be taken to ensure that teaching is resumed without any loss of time.

In their recent communications addressed to the Minister of Human Resource Development and myself, DUTA reiterated its demand for introduction of Professor's grade in colleges. In reply thereto, I have made it clear that since the matter has been referred to the Mehrotra Committee, it is not possible to take an instant decision. There is nothing more I can add to this. As has been reiterated several times, the process of attending to the problems of the teaching community will go on a continuing basis and in an atmosphere of cordiality and cooperation.

The Delhi Student's Union has also appealed to DUTA to call off their strike and resume teaching. For the Government, the interests of students are paramount, and we believe that this is the view also of an overwhelming number of teachers. However, further continuation of the strike by the DUTA would lead to not only ruining the careers of students but will also largely damage one of our best Universities. I trust that better counsels will prevail and the teachers will resume teaching immediately. In any event, I would like to assure the House that Government are determined to save the year of the students and to take necessary steps to ensure normalcy in Delhi University Colleges.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now stand adjourned and meet at 2.30 P.M.

The House than adjourned for lunch at six minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-one minutes past two of the clock. Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have pleasure in introducing to you, and through you, to the House, my colleagues :

1. Shri P. Shiv Shankar, Minister of Commerce and Food and Civil Supplies ;

2. Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and

3. Shri P. Chidambaram, who has been elevated as Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel and Training, Administrative Reform and Public Grievances and Pensions.